Message from Mother Mary



"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour!"

இயேசு கிறிஸ்துவின் நாமத்தில் அன்பின் வாழ்த்துக்கள்

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Message from Mother Mary

God in these last days is visiting His people in a glorious way through His Holy Spirit. Each Church is receiving an appopriate message from Christ the Head (Revelation 2 & 3). The Roman Catholic Church is the single largest segment within Christendom. Praise God for the marvellous move of the Holy Spirit among the Roman Catholics all over the world. Is not God impartial? Apostle Peter said, "In every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to Him" (Acts 10:34,35). But without a clearcut message of spiritual Salvation, people may be deceived. None of us should wake up on the Resurrection morn to an unpleasant surprise. This is the purpose of this article. I have brought out here five important lessons on Salvation and Christian Life from the very words and experiences of Mother Mary. I plead with every Roman Catholic friend to read the following paragraphs carefully with an open mind.

1. Receive the free Gift of Salvation.

Virgin Mary sang, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour" (Luke 1:47). She accepted that she was a "sinner," and that's why she addressed God as her "Saviour." Only the sick need a physician. Only a sinner needs a saviour. The Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). The word "all" includes Mary and Joseph and everyone other than Jesus.

We cannot earn or merit spiritual Salvation with our religious rites or social service. Both Catholics and Protestants must clearly understand this Biblical truth. We read in the Scripture, "All our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment" (Isaiah 64:6). Saul was a religious zealot. He was cicumcised on the eighth day after birth. He was of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, and a Hebrew born of Hebrews. As to the Law he was a Pharisee. As to zeal he was a persecutor of the Church. As to righteousness under the Law he was blameless. But whatever gains like these he had, he counted as loss for the sake of Christ (Philippians 3:4-7). You also might have been born to Christian parents, baptised in your Church going through all the rituals and regulations of your Church, and may be doing your best to lead a good life. These

and one hundred and one such things will not earn you Salvation. The Bible clearly teaches, "Salvation is the gift of God — not because of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9). As far as God is concerned, Salvation is granted to us purely by His "grace." As far as we are concerned, it is received by us solely through our "faith." In Latin these two statements are summarised respectively as, "*Sola Gratia*" and "*Sola Fide.*" That is, "Only by Grace" and "Only through Faith."

The Church cannot save us. The Mass or our offerings or charity cannot save us. Christ alone can save us and He does it when we believe on Him, and Him alone. Forgiveness of sins is only through the blood of Jesus Christ (1 John 1:7; Ephesians 1:7). Cry to God right now, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" (Lk 18:13). Believe in your heart that Christ died for you on Calvary's cross and rose again on the third day by the power of God (Romans 10:9,10). Receive Him as your personal Saviour as a definite act of faith. "To all who received Him, who believed in His Name, he gave power (right) to become children of God" (John 1:12).

Christ is the only Mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5,6). That's why we always pray to God

the Father in the Name of Jesus Christ His Son. A sinner, however saintly he may be, cannot mediate between a holy God and a sinful man. Though Mother Mary lived a life pleasing to God, she is not sinless like God's Son Jesus. Has not Jesus said, "I am THE Way ... No one comes to the Father, but by Me?" (John 14:6). He did not prescribe another way, or point out another mediator, to come to God the Father or to Him. (Latin: *"Solo Christo").* The idea that we can go to the Son through His mother is entirely human, and it is not from God. The Bible does not endorse this idea anywhere.

Dear friend, if you repent today and receive Christ as your Sin-bearer, Saviour and Redeemer, you can also "rejoice" like Mother Mary in God's great Salvation. We must receive this Salvation before we die. No one can pray for the dead. There's no place called "purgatory." It's just an imagination. It has no Biblical basis. "Now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). Jesus is coming soon (Revelation 22:20).

2. Surrender to God's Word.

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). The word "handmaid" is also translated as "maidservant" and "slave." She acknowledged the

supreme authority of God's Word and submitted to it as a willing slave even though she did not "understand" what was told her by angel Gabriel.

The Bible says that God has exalted His Name and His Word above everything (Psalm 138:2). Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, by My words will not pass away" (Mark 13:31). There's no appeal or authority beyond God's Word. The Bible with its 66 Books is God's Word. It is God's very voice. God's Word never changes, and God never contradicts His Word. It is eternally established. Jesus said that anyone who builds his life on His Word is comparable to a wise man who lays the foundation for his house deep on solid rock (Matthew 7:24-28).

The Apostles (God's special messengers) always turned to the Scriptures for truth and understanding. Apostle Peter wrote emphatically, "It stands in Scripture," and "No prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretations" (1 Peter 2:6; 2 Peter 1:20). Apostle Paul often asked, "What does the Scripture say?" (Romans 4:3; 11:2; Galatians 4:30). Apostle James challenged, "Do you suppose that it is in vain that the Scripture says ...?" (James 4:5). If we don't embrace the liberating truth of God's Word, ours will not be an "enlightened zeal" (Romans 10:1-4).

However good the practices and the traditions of the Church may be, they can never equal or substitute the unchanging Word of God. Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of His time, saying, "For the sake of your tradition, you have made void the Word of God" (Matthew 15:6; Mark 7:13). Apostle Peter explains this truth like this: "You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers ... and you have been born anew, through the imperishable, living and abiding Word of God" (1 Peter 1:18,23). The Bible must be first in our life; not the Pope or the Bishops or the Priests or the Church, whatever be the denomination. The Church gets its authority from the Bible, and not vice versa. "In the beginning was the Word," not the Church! (John 1:1).

Get a copy of the Bible immediately and read for yourself daily to receive God's message to you. The *Revised Standard Version* (RSV) is a reliable translation, which is used in this article. When you receive Christ as your Saviour you become a child of God. Therefore the seed of God is in you. God by His Spirit will teach you His Word and lead you into all truth. Eschew anything contrary to the Bible and embrace only whatever is Biblical. (Latin: *"Sola Scriptura")*. God honours those who honour His Word. Your friends may insult and ridicule you. Turn a deaf ear. The devil is afraid of God's Word, and so if he frowns on you, don't be surprised. Memorize select Scripture passages and use them appropriately against the devil

when he tempts you. Follow the example Jesus has shown when He was tempted by the devil. By repeating the words, "It is written," Jesus decisively defeated the devil (Matthew 4:1-11). We can experience victory over sin only through the Word of God (Psalms 119:9,11). In this world of spiritual darkness, God's Word is a "lamp" to our feet and a "light" to our path (v105).

Christian life means faith on God and obedience to Him. Believe His promises and obey His commands. Apostle John wrote, "This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3). Read carefully the New Testament, the second part of the Bible, and underline the commandments of Jesus. Obey them one by one by His enabling grace and strength. One of the basic commandments of Christ is to be baptized in water (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16). Peter, one of the prominent apostles, said the same thing: "Repent and be baptized" (Acts 2:38). Any ritual you might have gone through before personal repentance and faith cannot be accepted as baptism according to the Bible. The Scriptural order is to repent and then be baptized. Believe on Christ as your personal Saviour; and then be baptized. No man has the authority to change this order set by God. Therefore beloved, go at once to a Spirit-filled servant of God and be baptized by him in water and become a sincere disciple of Jesus Christ.

When Mary submitted herself as a willing slave to the authority of God's Word, God used her as a channel of the greatest blessing to mankind. Similarly when our forefather Abraham believed God's Word and obeyed Him, he was blessed to become a blessing to all the families of the earth. We must emulate such examples. When they ran out of wine in a wedding at Cana, do you know what the Mother of Jesus told the servants? "Do whatever He tells you" (John 2:5).

3. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Virgin Mary conceived when the Holy Spirit came on her and the power of the Most High overshadowed her (Luke 1:35). This blessed experience was unique in any sense. But when Jesus commanded His disciples to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit on them as an anointing, Mother Mary was one of the 120 humble and obedient believers who tarried in Jerusalem for ten days (Acts 1:14). She received the baptism with the Holy Spirit like the other disciples and spoke in new tongues the wonderful works of God in praise and worship (Acts 2:4,11). Mother Mary needed the power of the Holy Spirit to be a witness for Christ (Acts 1:8). She could not be so apart from the power of the blessed third Person of the Holy Trinity.

When the multitude of Jews, who were wonder-struck by the miraculous outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples on the Day of Pentecost, asked Peter and the other Apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?," Peter instantly replied, "Repent, and be baptized ... and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:37,38). He also added, "This promise is to you and to your children and to all those who are afar off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to Him" (v39). Yes, beloved, you can also claim this promise of the Holy Spirit because you are called to be a child of God.

The absolute need of the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives is due to the following reasons: (a) According to His very name the "Holy" Spirit makes us holy. He gives us strength to overcome the temptations of the devil. He produces in us the attractive virtues of His fruit (Galatians 5:22,23). He transforms us step by step into the likeness of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). (b) The Holy Spirit is the Author of the Holy Bible (2 Peter 1:20,21). He teaches us the truths about God. He opens our spiritual eyes so we may understand the deep things of God. He reminds us of the words of Jesus — the right word at the right time (John 14:26). (c) The Holy Spirit helps us in our prayers. We do not know how exactly we must pray.

When necessary, He Himself prays from within us (Romans 8:26,27). He makes the presence of Christ real to us. (d) The Holy Spirit is God's Comforter for us (John 14:16). He encourages and strengthens us in times of worries, difficulties, trials and sufferings. He quickens our mortal bodies (Romans 8:11). (e) He enables us to find God's will and directions for our life (8:14). (f) The Holy Spirit empowers us to testify boldly for Christ (Acts 1:8). He bestows on us His gifts to be used for the blessing of our fellowmen (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). (g) The Holy Spirit reminds us often that we are the people of God (Romans 8:16). He keeps us in the assurance that all things work together for our good (8:28). O, blessed Holy Spirit!

How to receive the Holy Spirit? Make sure you are washed by the blood of Christ and have become a child of God. Come to God in prayer with childlike faith and sincere thirst. Mother Mary sang, "God has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich (= those who think they need nothing) He has sent empty away" (Luke 1:53). Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit as He has promised. Here's the assurance of the Lord Jesus: "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" (Luke 11:13). Praying with Spirit-filled believers will be helpful.

4. Worship God in spirit and in truth.

Mary sang , "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour" (Luke 1:46). She worshipped God for His might, mercy, strength and faithfulness in keeping His promises. The entire Song of Mary in Luke 1:46-55 is one of praise and worship. She worshipped God "in spirit" (v47).

Jesus has given us a clearcut instruction about true worship: "God is Spirit (without form), and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). Any form of idol worship is sin, because it is direct disobedience to the commandment of God. One of the main reasons why God's judgment came on the people of Israel and the other communities was their sin of idolatry. This is what we learn from the Bible (Romans 1:23,25). In a country like India which is known for idol worship, it's the responsibility of Christians to be a testimony for God who has no form but who is Spirit (1 Thessalonians 1:9).

The devil has duped Christians down through the ages that it is alright to worship the images of Jesus or Mary or saints and the Cross or the crucifix. But look at the crystal-clarity of the second of the Ten Commandments: "You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in

heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God (I cannot tolerate it), visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me" (Exodus 20:4,5). That nothing is exempted is seen clearly from the use of the words "any" and "anything." God calls worship of images and statues as "iniquity" because it amounts to "hating" Him. Yes, reducing the Spirit-God to the form of a picture or an image is nothing but dishonouring His Name. Nobody ever photographed Jesus. The portraits and statues of today are simply guesswork and tradition. Apostle Paul said pointedly, "From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once regarded Christ from a human point of view, we regard Him thus no longer ... The old has passed away, behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:16,17).

The celebration of Mass or participation in it is another contradiction to the simple teaching of the New Testament. Christ was crucified once and for all for us. His sacrifice is not to be repeated in any sense, but only remembered spiritually. Hear what the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews has to say on

this: "We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest (in the Old Testament period) stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sin. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God ... And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us" (Hebrews 10:10-15).

The Lord's Supper is only to "remember" the Lord with thanksgiving and joy (1 Corinthians 11:24). The bread and wine are just emblems or symbols of His body and blood. They do not become sacraments (sacred objects). Even after blessing them with prayer, they remain as bread and wine. The doctrine of transubstantiation that these elements become the flesh and blood of Jesus is totally unscriptural. Similarly the doctrine of consubstantiation that the body and blood of Christ coexist with the bread and the wine is also unfounded in the Scripture. Another truth: All the believers in Christ are "holy and royal priesthood." This is stressed by Apostle Peter in his First Epistle (1 Peter 2:5,9). There's no difference. There are no non-priests in the Church of Christ. Also there's no sacred place called "altar" in the New Testament Church. According to the New Covenant, which came into force after the death of Christ,

everything is gloriously spiritual! Why do we need shadows after the reality has come? Both the Roman Catholics and the Protestants must embrace these Biblical reformations.

Another practice you must forsake is the worship of Mother Mary. She was godly but not divine. She was totally human. Her blessedness was a sheer gift of God through His grace and favour. The secret of her blessing was the presence of God with her (Luke 1:28,30). She conceived Jesus by a power outside of her — that is, the power of the Holy Spirit which came on her (v35). She had no redemptive virtue, but she looked to God for her own salvation. Worshipping Mary is opposed to the message of the Cross of Christ, because no one is co-redemptrix with Christ. We cannot add anything to the Cross of Christ (Galatians 6:14). The wise men from the East at Christmastime did the right thing. They saw both Jesus and Mary but they fell down and worshipped only the "Baby" (Matthew 2:11). They brought three gifts and all were presented to Him only — not one to Mary, one to Joseph and one to Jesus! Mariology, that is the doctrine of Mary, was not developed by any reference to the Bible. It's purely an invention of man. Remember the Biblical warning: "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death" (Proverbs 14:12).

5. Join a fellowship of believers.

One day the brothers of Jesus and His mother came to see Him. Standing outside the house where He was they sent word and called Him. The huge crowd which was sitting around Him told Him, "Your mother and Your brothers are outside, asking for You." He replied, "Who are My mother and brothers?" And looking around on those who sat about Him, He said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! Whoever does the will of God is My brother, and sister, and mother" (Mark 3:31-35).

The word "Church" comes from the Greek word *"Ecclesia"* which means those "called out." Yes, the Church is the company or fellowship of those who are called out from the idolatrous and immoral world to serve the living God and follow His will. It is the family of God because its members were once the children of the devil but now the children of God. It is the Body of Christ because each one is an organ by rebirth and incorporation by the Holy Spirit. Beloved, look at the following unmistakable commandment of God: "Do not be mismated with unbelievers. For what partnership have righteousness and iniquity? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with the devil? Or what has a believer in

common with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God ... Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord; and I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:14-18). God's people who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit are the temple of God today; not the buildings (Ephesians 2:19-22). There's no holy place in this New Covenant era which dawned after Christ (Acts 7:47-50).

Say bye to statues and idols! Worship with a fellowship of believers who sincerely follow the simple teaching of the New Testament and walk in love. Away with dead rituals. Your friends and relatives may persecute you when you take these steps. But remember the words of Jesus: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in Heaven; for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:10-12). The Church history is stained with the blood of thousands of believers because they refused to bow to unscriptural authority but stood

for the unadulterated Gospel, proclaiming, ***"The just shall live by faith"*** (Habakkuk 2:4; Galatians 3:11; Romans 1:17; Hebrews 10:38).

Do not hide your new-found precious faith and joy but share it freely with others. Though Mary and Joseph could not fully understand Jesus, He gave top priority to God and His Kingdom in His life. He asked His parents, "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's concerns?" (Luke 2:49,50). Testifying for Jesus does not mean you must become a pulpit preacher or a fulltime pastor. If you are a student, endeavour to bring your fellow-students to Christ. If you are a businessman, influence the business community for God. Everyone without Christ is lost — eternally lost! Think of your responsibility and privilege to lead them to the living waters! Let people glorify God by your words and deeds (Matthew 5:16; 1 Corinthians 10:31). Whatever you do, let it be for the glory of God. (Latin: *"Soli Deo Gloria")*.

Daily prayer and Bible meditation are food for your soul; but testifying for Christ is the exercise. The more you testify the stronger will you grow in your spiritual life. There's no joy like that of the soulwinner! Your reward in Heaven will be great. Here's a promise for you from Daniel 12:3, "Those who are wise shall shine

like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever!"

Come, let's shout together —

- Scripture alone! *(Sola Scriptura)*
- Faith alone! *(Sola Fide)*
- Grace alone! *(Sola Gratia)*
- Christ alone! *(Solo Christo)*
- Glory of God alone! *(Soli Deo Gloria)*

It's my prayer that God would adorn each reader of this pamphlet with His Salvation! The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

— R. Stanley (1947-)
(A Building Engineer
turned Bible Teacher from India)
<stanleyonbible@gmail.com>

Song of Mary

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for He has regarded
the low estate of His handmaiden.
For behold, henceforth all generations
will call me blessed;
for He who is mighty
has done great things for me,
and holy is His name.
And His mercy is on those who fear Him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with His arm,
He has scattered the proud
in the imagination of their hearts,
He has put down the mighty
from their thrones,
and exalted those of low degree;
He has filled the hungry
with good things,
and the rich He has sent away empty."

(Luke 1:46-55. The Holy Bible)